

ABSTRACT OF A JOURNAL

KEPT BY

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FOR THE

RECEPTION OF RECAPTURED NEGROES

ON THE

WESTERN COAST OF AFRICA.

CONTAINING

An Account of the First Negotiations

FOR THE

PURCHASE OF LANDS

FOR THE

AMERICAN COLONY.

FOURTH EDITION

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PREFACE.

THE public have been already informed of the strenuous exertions of the United States government, in enacting numerous laws for the purpose of suppressing the slave trade; and of the successful vigilance of our naval officers, in detecting those desperadoes, the slave-traders, and bringing them to justice.

The public have also been informed of the benevolent operations of the American Colonization Society, in endeavouring to form a settlement on the western coast of Africa, composed of those free people of colour who choose to emigrate thither. It is moreover known that this settlement, if established, may prove an asylum for those Africans, who shall be recaptured by the United States' cruisers and sent to the coast.

Having been employed as an assistant agent of the United States, with J. B. Winn, Esq. principal agent in transporting to the coast of Africa a number of recaptured Africans and free people of colour; the author has had an opportunity of witnessing the degraded state of that section of the earth, and feels it a duty he owes to the souls of his fellow creatures, to lay before the Christian world a plain statement of facts in relation to the subject, which he doubts not will be interesting to all, and confidently trusts useful to many.

It may be proper to mention, that Mr. Winn, and the author, were accompanied in the expedition by the Rev. R. Andrus, principal, and Mr. C. Wiltberger, assistant agents of the Colonization Society, together with Mrs. Winn and Mrs. Bacon, in the brig Nautilus, Captain Blair, and further, that the author's return was caused by ill health.

ABSTRACT, &c.

WE left Norfolk on the 21st of January, 1821, and on the 23d sailed from Hampton Roads. For about thirty days we encountered head winds and strong gales, and made slow progress. During this time I was very sea-sick, as were also Mrs. Bacon, and the Rev. Mr. Andrus. The other agents were less afflicted; some of the colonists suffered from the same malady. Our captain was remarkably kind and attentive to those who were sick, and particularly to Mrs. Bacon and myself, when we were unable to wait upon ourselves, for which kindness I shall always feel myself under very many obligations to him. Nothing uncommon occurred during our voyage, except that we experienced a very severe gale of wind, accompanied with a snow storm, which our captain told us was more violent than any he had known during the preceding twenty years. It was indeed a time to try our faith.

At the commencement of the voyage, we established morning and evening prayers in the cabin, as well as in the steerage, where the coloured people were; in these we enjoyed the consolations of the religion we profess.

We had all recovered from sea-sickness, and having arrived within the tropics, where the weather was fine and the wind favourable, our passage was more agreeable, and during the remainder of our voyage, a continuation of the mercies of our heavenly Father were daily bestowed upon us. On the morning of the 8th of March, we had a distant view of the mountains of Sierra Leone, which was really animating after crossing the Atlantic. We felt ourselves approaching towards that much injured country, where we expected to labour, and to suffer many and great afflictions. We were cheered with the hope, that through the assistance of Divine grace, we should be, in a greater or less degree, useful among the degraded children of Africa. The wind was fair but

rather light, as is not uncommon in the dry season. We soon hove in sight of Cape Sierra Leone, when we discovered, for the first time, several native canoes approaching toward us. These excited our curiosity. They were manned by the native Kroomen, in a state of nudity, or nearly so. When I speak of naked people, it may be always understood that they wear a cloth about their loins, and that the men generally wear hats. These hats are manufactured out of a kind of grass. The chiefs and head-men often wear common English hats.

We soon discovered a fine English barge approaching us, rowed by natives. In this were the harbour master, George Macaulay, and S. Easton, esquires, (of the house of the honourable K. Macaulay) who very politely gave us much interesting information, relative to our American blacks at Sherbro. As we approached near the harbour, they gave the American agents a friendly invitation to go on shore in the barge, and take lodgings at their house. As the principal agent concluded to remain on board, Mrs. Bacon and myself thought proper not to slight their politeness, our accommodations in the brig being somewhat circumscribed, and the transition from Norfolk, where the cold was excessive, to Sierra Leone, where the degrees of heat were at noon day from 85 to 87½ in the shade, making a visit to land desirable. Moreover the services of all the agents were not required to attend to the wants of the people. We accordingly went on shore, where we were politely and hospitably entertained for several days.

The agents of the United States, together with those of the Society, soon had an interview with the Rev. Daniel Coker, by whom we learnt the condition of the American settlers at Sherbro. He informed us that the mortality, although severely felt in the loss of our valuable agents, and Mr. Townsend, commandant of the United States schooner *Augusta*, together with six of his men, and a boy, was not so great as at first reported. The whole number of blacks who died, did not exceed twenty-three, out of the eighty-eight sent out in the ship *Elizabeth*. Several of those deaths were not caused by the prevailing fever. The actual number of blacks who died with fever, did not exceed eighteen or nineteen, all

of whom died at Kizzell's Place. Although very many of the settlers were extremely ill when they left Kizzell's Place, and removed to Yonie, a more healthy part of Sherbro island, and the time of their removal was the month of August, in the midst of the rainy season, still no deaths by fever occurred at Yonie; but on the contrary, a general recovery took place, notwithstanding there was no medical aid. The sickness at Kizzell's Place was evidently in a great degree owing to local causes: the water alone is said to be sufficiently bad to create malignant disorders, though Kizzell was base enough to assert that it contained peculiar qualities highly conducive to health. That, and other false assertions, induced the former agents to receive his offer of friendship; pretending, as he did, to unbounded influence among the native chiefs; an ardent desire to further the benevolent objects of our government and the Society; to benefit America; to meliorate the condition of the African race, and propagate the glorious gospel of God in a heathen land.

After making other necessary inquiries of Mr. Coker, and of those gentlemen in Sierra Leone, with whom we were most conversant; also of some of the American blacks who went out with Paul Cuffee, and of Nathaniel Peck, who accompanied the first expedition; we were fully satisfied that Mr. Coker had managed the business of the expedition, after the decease of the former agents, in as judicious a manner as the circumstances of the case would admit.

We lost no time after our arrival, in communicating with the acting governor, his honour John Grant, Esq. upon the subject of our mission.

The very friendly disposition which the colonial authorities manifested towards the objects of our mission, may be seen by a reference to the Sierra Leone Gazette.

A meeting of all the agents, together with Mr. Coker, took place, when it was unanimously agreed to relinquish the idea of making any further attempt to negotiate for lands in the *Sherbro country*; and that two of the agents should cause the United States schooner *Augusta*, which was lying at anchor in the harbour at Sierra

Leone, to undergo some slight repairs for the purpose of exploring the coast in search of a suitable site for an American settlement; moreover, it was resolved that no time should be lost, as we were taught by our instructions to regard the acquisition of lands for a settlement, as a matter of primary importance.

Having a discretion on this subject, it was determined after advising with the English missionaries and agents at Sierra Leone, that the Rev. Mr. Andrus and myself should be deputed to the service of exploring the coast, and entering into negotiations with the native chiefs. At the same time it was arranged that Messrs. Winn and Wiltberger should disembark the people and goods from the Nautilus, after a suitable place for their temporary location should be determined upon, by and with the consent of the colonial authorities, who had politely proffered to provide such place, as soon as it could be selected. It was also agreed that Messrs. Winn and Wiltberger, should attend to the business at Sherbro—supply the wants of the people there, or remove them as should be found most expedient; so that as nearly as possible an equal partition of duties was made.

A suitable place was found about two weeks after Mr. Andrus and myself had sailed on our hazardous excursion. We had been taught to expect the arrival of the Alligator, which was to accompany us. But it was not deemed advisable to wait, but to proceed immediately to execute that part of our instructions, which directed us to explore the coast; in this determination we were influenced by the following reasons:—

1. The assistance of all the agents was not necessary to administer to the wants of the people, circumstanced as they must be during their continuance at Sierra Leone; and some of us, unless employed in obtaining the lands, must have remained almost or quite unoccupied.

2. The period of the arrival of the Alligator on the coast was entirely uncertain. But little more than six weeks remained before the rains.

The business of exploring, therefore, must be commenced immediately, or not completed until the rainy season; and as the event showed, had we waited for the

arrival of the Alligator, it could not have been began before the commencement of the rains.

3. But our principal reason for embarking in the business immediately, was the certainty that the presence of an armed force would hinder rather than assist our negotiations with the natives. In this opinion we were confirmed by the unanimous judgment of all our English friends consulted on the subject. It will be seen, by a reference to dates, that we had concluded our contract for the lands, and returned to Sierra Leone, two weeks or more before the arrival of the Alligator.

The vessel in which we were to sail not being ready, and some information concerning our route being necessary, Mr. Andrus and myself visited the Rev. Mr. Johnson, a minister of the Church Missionary Society, at Freetown. We found him just recovering from ill health. He gave us a polite invitation to visit Regent's town, and appointed Saturday the 17th of March; on that day he furnished us with horses, and accompanied us with his lady and several other missionaries. Mrs. Bacon not being accustomed to ride on horseback, was carried in a palanquin, by some of the captured Africans. At about 7 o'clock, A. M. we left Freetown, and arrived at Gloucester town about 9 or 10 o'clock, where we took some refreshment with the Rev. Mr. During. Under his care is a fine flourishing town of captured negroes; in which have been erected and are nearly finished, a large stone church, a commodious parsonage house, and a school house.

At about one o'clock, P. M. we arrived at Regent's town. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson had been at Freetown, where Mr. J. was sick several weeks; on our arrival great numbers of his people came to shake hands with him, and inquired affectionately after his health; even the expression of every countenance bore strong testimony of their ardent love for him, and the joy which filled their hearts on his recovery from sickness, and safe return to his flock.

We had previously been informed by Mr. Johnson of a missionary tour, performed by *Mr. Cates*, an English missionary from Sierra Leone, in an overland journey to Grand Bassa, a distance of about 400 miles, accom-

panied by William Tamba and William Davis, native missionaries.

We had also been advised to select the Bassa country as the most eligible for the location of our settlement; the natives having manifested not only a willingness, but an ardent desire to receive instructions, and the king and head-men having entered into a covenant with Mr. Cates to receive and protect any missionaries which should be sent from Sierra Leone. We had moreover had an interview with Tamba and Davis on the subject, and came to a conclusion to explore the coast to the southward and eastward. Mr. Johnson politely proposed that Tamba and Davis should accompany us as interpreters. These men were able to speak all the different languages of the tribes as far as the Bassa country.

At six o'clock on the evening of our arrival, the bell at the church rang for divine service. The people were immediately seen walking from different parts of the town; the parsonage house being so situated that there is a fair view of almost the whole settlement, and it was delightful to observe the eagerness which people manifested to hear the word of God. A prayer meeting was held by the communicants after the usual evening prayers, it being expected that the Lord's Supper would be celebrated the next day.

Sunday morning the 18th of March.—At six o'clock, the bell rang for morning prayers, when the church was again filled. O! how pleasing to behold hundreds of those who were once wretched inmates of the holds of slave-ships, assembled in the house of God, on the morning of that holy day on which our blessed Saviour rose from the dead and ascended up to heaven! With many copies of the Holy Bible spread open before their black faces, their eyes were fixed intently on the words of the lesson which their godly pastor was reading. Almost all of Mr. Johnson's people who can read the blessed book, are supplied with Bibles from that *best of institutions the British and Foreign Bible Society*. Surely Christians ought to feel themselves encouraged in the support of missions, when such cheering fruits present themselves to view.

At 10 o'clock the bell again rang, though the church was nearly filled before that hour; the members of the well regulated schools which passed in review before the parsonage in regular succession, were all clad in clean decent apparel. When we arrived at the church there were no vacant seats to be seen. The greatest attention was paid during divine service. "Indeed I witnessed a Christian congregation in a heathen land—a people fearing God and working righteousness. The tear of godly sorrow rolled down many a coloured cheek, and showed the contrition of a heart that felt its own vileness." There were three couple married, and one child baptized. After the sermon, Mr. Johnson, with the assistance of brother Andrus, administered the communion of the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ to nearly four hundred communicants.

At 3 o'clock, P. M. the church was again filled, and the most devout attention was paid to the reading and hearing of the *word*. It seemed that the whole congregation were eager to catch every word which fell from the pastor's lips.

Again, before the ringing of the bell, at six o'clock in the evening, the people were seen from the distant parts of the town, leaving their homes and retracing their steps back towards the house of God.

There we again united in praising that God who hath wrought such wonderful things even among the mountains of Sierra Leone, where the praises of Jehovah resound, not only from his holy sanctuary, but from the humble mud-walled cottage—from the tongues of those children of Africa, who have been taken by the avaricious slave-trader, dragged from parents, separated from brother and sister, and perhaps from wife, or husband, bound in chains, hurried on board the slave-ship, crowded in a space not exceeding their length and breadth, nor even allowed to breathe the vital air. These persons after being recaptured, by order of the British government, have been put under the charge of a faithful minister of the gospel, whose labours have been accompanied by the Holy Spirit. These are the mighty works of God.

Monday morning the 19th of March.—At six o'clock

prayers again in church. After breakfast it was concluded that it was expedient for Mrs. Bacon to remain in Mr. Johnson's family during my absence with Mr. Andrus exploring the coast.

We left Regent's town and arrived at Gloucester, where we took some refreshment with the Rev. Mr. During, and arrived at Freetown about ten. We found that the schooner *Augusta* was still undergoing repairs. We commenced making the necessary preparations for our departure. Contracted with William Martin, a yellow man, to navigate the vessel, and John Bean as mate—Moses Turner, three native sailors, and five Kroomen.

Wednesday evening the 21st of March.—Having been much engaged in making preparations, I had not time to write to my friends; and expecting not to return until after the sailing of the brig *Nautilus*, (although the disembarkation had not yet commenced,) a letter was wrote approving of the judicious management of the Rev. Daniel Coker, in conducting the affairs of the first expedition after the decease of the former agents, and recommending him to the friendly notice of the Board of Managers of the American Society for colonizing the Free People of Colour. This letter was signed by J. B. Winn, J. R. Andrus, C. Wiltberger, jr. and E. Bacon, agents.

Thursday morning the 22d of March.—The schooner is expected to be ready to-day; we are preparing for our departure, and hope to sail this evening.

At 5 o'clock, P. M. all hands are on board, some of the sailors intoxicated; the captain appears to make unnecessary delays. At length we set sail. After doubling the cape, we stood out to sea, far enough to clear all the head lands and islands of the coast; and then proceeding coastwise, we made Cape Mount, about 250 miles distant from Sierra Leone, on the 27th. This part of the coast we had previously learned to be in the occupancy of King Peter, one of the most powerful and warlike chiefs of West Africa, and more deeply engaged in the slave trade than any of his neighbours. The known hostility of his views to the objects of the American government and Society, dissuaded us from incurring any loss of time or expense in procuring an interview with

him. We accordingly proceeded onward to the mouth of the Mesurado river, about 50 miles south of Cape Mount, where we came to anchor the next day, before two small islands, owned by John Mills, a yellow man, having an English education, and Cary, a black and native African. Both of these men are slave dealers, and it is supposed that their islands are mere slave markets. Every appearance went to justify this suspicion. The neighbourhood of Cape Mesurado having been indicated as a part of the coast favourable to our purpose, we were induced to make the most particular inquiry and observations in our power, relative to the advantages and disadvantages that would attend a settlement here.

The appearance of this part of the left bank of the Mesurado river, which terminates in the cape of the same name, is sufficiently elevated, and inviting. The natural growth is luxuriant and abundant; many of the trees attain to a large size, and present every indication of a strong and fertile soil.

The head man is a dependant of King Peter, and has the same name. We attempted to obtain a palaver with him, and for this purpose went on shore with a present. He was not ignorant of the object of our visit, and sent by a messenger declining an interview and refusing to receive our present, though we had reason to believe that if we had been mere missionaries, he would have received us readily.* While we were at anchor, a schooner under French colours appeared, laying off and apparently waiting for an opportunity to come in and receive a cargo of slaves. We saw a great number of young Africans, who appeared as if intended for that vessel.

On the evening of the 29th, we got under way, and following the direction of the coast, which here stretches south-easterly, we had the prospect of a delightful country the whole distance to St. John's river. The coast presents a sandy beach; in the whole of this extent, the country is gently elevated from the coast, and has a surface agreeably diversified with moderate inequalities. Most of the land visible from the sea either has been, or

* This cape has since been negotiated for, together with a large tract of fertile country, and the American colony are settled on it.

now is, in a state of cultivation. The soil is prolific in the most substantial articles of food produced in tropical countries. The neglected parts of the land are covered with a thick growth of brush wood. The mountains in the interior are here about twenty or thirty miles from the sea, stretching in the direction of the coast, and come more distinctly into view, than at the northward of the Cape. Their elevation must be considerable. On the evening of the 31st we were becalmed, and obliged to anchor opposite the mouth of the St. John's river, at the distance of between two and three leagues. This river is nearly a league over at the mouth. About six leagues from the sea, it is one mile wide, and has in no part of the main channel, less than nine feet water. Salt water extends but six or eight miles from the sea; there is a rapid at six leagues distance from the mouth of the river, which is however passable with canoes. Above, the batteau navigation extends to a great distance in the interior. Five miles to the eastward of the mouth of St. John's, and discharging its waters into the same bay, is the Grand Bassa river, small in comparison with the St. John's, and very shoal at the bar—but of considerable length, and navigable for light batteaux a number of leagues.

On the 1st of April, we brought the schooner to anchor off the mouth of the latter river, at the distance of three-fourths of a mile. We were soon surrounded with canoes, which brought on board a large number of natives. By one of them we despatched a small present to the king. This prince's name is Jack Ben, lately advanced to the supreme power, from the rank of principal head-man, in consequence of the death of King John, which occurred about four months before our visit.

Monday morning, April 2d, Grand Bassa.—We were visited by ten or fifteen native canoes, bringing from two to five men each, who came to trade; their articles were fowls, fish, oysters, eggs, palm oil and palm wine, cassada, yams, plantains, bananas, limes and pine apples, for which they wanted in return tobacco, pipes, beads, &c.

Fowls are sold for one leaf of tobacco or one pipe each; oysters are very large and fine; half a pound of tobacco

will buy one hundred; they are larger than the Blue-point oysters.

Mr. Andrus and myself went on shore in our boat, below the mouth of Grand Bassa, to take a view of the point of land which projects out into the sea. A fort, erected on this point, would completely command the whole harbour. After visiting the point, it was necessary to cross the Grand Bassa a short distance above its mouth, as the surf was turbulent below the bar. Our conductor was a Krooman, by the name of Bottle Beer. When we came to the left bank of the river, we saw no canoe or other means of crossing over as we thought; but Bottle Beer proposed to carry us over, and placed himself in a suitable position, and told one of us to sit upon his shoulders, when brother Andrus seated himself with one leg over each shoulder; then Bottle Beer walked deliberately through the river, carrying his burden safe to the other bank, and returned back and proposed to take me. I told him I was so fat and heavy that he would let me fall into the water; he put his hands upon his arms and legs, and said, "Me strong, me carry you, Daddy." At length I seated myself likewise upon Bottle Beer, and though he was not as heavy a person as myself, he carried me safe over without wetting me; it was necessary, however, that I should hold my feet up, as the water was about half a fathom deep. After this we walked about 300 yards, to Bottle Beer's town, a little cluster of cottages inhabited by Kroomen, of which B. B. is head-man; several of these people can talk broken English: the King placed B. B. at this town as a factor or a harbour master, as it is a place for vessels to water. The population is perhaps from 60 to 100; we were conducted to the palaver-house, where the people soon gathered together, and shook hands with us. After remaining a short time, we were conducted to another town (so called) where the people were boiling sea-water for salt, as they do at all the towns near the beach; this is called Salt-town; through this we passed to Jumbotown, which is about one mile from Bottle Beer's town, and much larger.

In Jumbotown there are from 30 to 40 houses, and several hundred people. There is also a large palaver-

house, to which we were conducted. There we were accosted by Jumbo, the head-man, and the natives, and shook hands with them. The land is prolific beyond description. Indian corn grows luxuriantly and is in the ear. Indeed the country is beautifully variegated, and the water is good and plenty.

About 1 o'clock, P. M. we returned back to our boat, which was at B. B.'s town. After the boat was in readiness, one of the Kroomen took me in his arms and carried me above the surf to the boat, and likewise Mr. Andrus, so that we were not wet; and all this kindness without being solicited. Indeed they are very kind and hospitable; they gave us water to drink, and palm wine, and made us welcome to such as they had. As is customary, they begged for tobacco, of which we gave a small quantity to the head-men, who always distribute among the people.

After returning on board the schooner, we dined on fish and oysters sumptuously. We then went in our boat over the bar, into the mouth of the St. John's river, about four miles distance from the schooner, when we sounded on the bar, and found not less than nine feet water at ebb-tide. The river is about three miles wide at the bar: there is plenty of water and good anchorage: vessels of two or three hundred tons burden, may lie perfectly safe. It being nearly dark, and the tide beginning to make, which was against our returning in the boat, over the bar, it was thought most prudent for Mr. Andrus and myself to go on shore and return by land to Jumbotown, which we accordingly did. There was no path on the shore but the sand beach, which was fatiguing, as the sand was so loose that a great part of the way our shoes would sink two or three inches every step. Moreover, being exposed to the night air, is thought in Africa to be dangerous to foreigners; however, we arrived at Jumbotown about 8 o'clock, and waited for our boat, which soon came. The natives again carried us through the surf, and we returned on board much fatigued, having been in a profuse perspiration and exposed to night air, until 9 o'clock. I was very weary. After having taken some refreshments, we had prayers and re-

tired to rest. Heard nothing from the king, the Kroo-man not having returned.

Tuesday, April 3d.—This morning brother Andrus was not in very good health, and did not go on shore, but took medicine. We were again visited by natives, with a great variety of fruit, vegetables, fowls, fish, &c. &c.

We this day sent another message to the king. At 10 o'clock I went on shore, in company with Tamba and Davis, and walked about one mile into the country, where I found the land remarkably good. We passed through four or five towns, as they called them; the houses as in other towns appear at a distant view more like the same number of stacks of straw or hay, as they are covered with a kind of grass. Davis and Tamba improve every opportunity to talk with their country people upon the subject of our mission. Davis saw some of the head-men to-day, who appear to be suspicious that we had some unfriendly object in view; but as he can speak their language fluently, he is endeavouring to remove their doubts.

Returned on board with not only my locks but my flannels drenched with perspiration; even while I am writing, if my handkerchief were not in my hand to wipe it from my face, I should be compelled to discontinue. No prospect as yet of seeing the king.

This evening brother Andrus's health is better. We commended ourselves and the cause in which we are engaged to God, who alone can accomplish all things, according to his purpose, and retired to rest.

Wednesday Morning, April 4th.—At six o'clock, according to our arrangements made yesterday, we started in our boat, with four boatmen and our interpreters, making eight of us; and five natives, two of which were head-men, in two of their canoes. We ascended the river St. John to the first island. The banks of the river are rather low, but suitable for cultivation. This island was formerly occupied by a slave factor; but since the English and American cruisers have annoyed them, the traders have abandoned this and all the other islands. In this river their gardens are to be seen; in them is a variety of fruit. We breakfasted here upon

some smoked beef and bread, which we brought from the vessel. Thence we proceeded on to another island, to which Davis said he was brought, and on which he was sold to an American slave factor.

It was with great difficulty that we prevailed on the natives and our boat's crew to proceed any further, because they said, "White man never live above that place." It appeared that they doubted the efficacy of their gregrees, which they never fail to wear when exposed to danger. We passed two other islands, formerly occupied by the same kind of desperadoes. We still proceeded onwards until we came to rapids, which are from 15 to 20 miles from its mouth. The land as we ascend the river becomes more elevated, with a fine growth of timber, admirably situated for settlements. We saw several small towns and farms, where rice and vegetables were cultivated. Davis read the 20th chapter of Exodus, and spoke to the people upon the state of their souls. In one of these towns, people were very attentive; their reply to him after he had ceased speaking was, "*Very well, we hear you, all very good what you say, we think 'bout it, we no sabby white man fash, we sabby gregre.*"

We saw very fine goats, and sheep, and poultry. All the people wear gregres or charms; some of these are brass rings, which they wear around their ankles and wrists—one is a feather tied with a string around their neck—and what they consider more valuable, is the horn of a goat or a sheep, which the Dibbleman (as they say) prepares by filling it with a kind of glutinous substance, intermixed with pulverized charcoal, or black sand; some wear a little ball of clay tied up in a piece of white muslin.

At 3 o'clock we put our company in motion on our return. At 7 o'clock, the boat arrived at the mouth of the river, and before crossing the bar, brother A., myself, Tamba and Davis, went on shore, where we had a most fatiguing walk down the beach to Jumbotown; our boat not being able to go over the bar before daylight, as the tide did not favour; therefore we had no boat in which we dare venture, as the native canoes were small and unsafe for us. Having been twelve hours exposed to the

scorching rays of the sun, and having walked four miles in the damp of the evening, with our clothes drenched in perspiration, and being obliged to lay down supperless upon a floor composed of bamboo sticks, without any covering but our wet garments—having no door to our cottage, and several hundred natives within twenty yards, drumming and dancing, until one or two o'clock in the morning.—Indeed these were times that the secret ejaculations of the heart ascended up to the throne of the Heavenly Grace, for grace to help in that hour of need. Nor was the ear of Jehovah heavy, that it could not hear; nor his almighty arm shortened, that it could not save; for we found ready help through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthening us.

Thursday Morning, April 5th.—We arose and felt somewhat the worse for our hard lodging, after our extreme exposure in that climate, in which, it is said, foreigners are subject to fevers and agues; our boat came to the beach for us, and we went on board the schooner. Having heard nothing from the king, we concluded to send Davis with one of the head-men, to seek his majesty. Davis was despatched with a present. We this day learned from a head-man, that we could have land, but that we must go to the king's town to-morrow.

We admired the friendly disposition of the inhabitants, but discovered their fears, that we were connected with some ship of war.

Friday Morning, April 6th.—We went on shore, and went to the king's town, but could not see him; it was said that he was not at home. The distance is from two and a half to three miles; the land is most excellent, elevated and dry; we saw very fine rice fields: this town was recently built, the houses are much better than any I have hitherto seen in the Bassa country.

We returned back to the schooner, without seeing Davis, and sent Tamba to call him, but he remained. We are full of doubts and fears about obtaining a palaver with the king.

Saturday, April 7th.—This day Tamba and Davis returned; it appears they have been labouring to convince the head-men, that we have not come with any hostile intention.

Sunday, April 8th.—Brother A——, and Davis, went to old King John's town, for the purpose of holding a meeting. Returned in the evening, and said that they had seen King Ben, and that he would meet us in Jumbotown, in palaver, the next morning.

They saw the body of King John, who had been dead four moons, yet not buried; he was laid in state, in a palaver-house, dressed in a fine robe, with a pair of new English boots on the feet: a brisk fire is kept burning in the room. His grave is dug, which is eight feet square, for the purpose of admitting the body and the form upon which it lies, together with bullocks, goats, sheep, tobacco and pipes, as sacrifices!

Monday, April 9th.—This morning the sea very rough. At 11 o'clock, we went on shore, with a present to the king, (as it is impossible to get a palaver with the authorities of the country, without a respectable present "to pay service" to the king, his princes and head-men,) we met his majesty, King Jack Ben of Grand Bassa, together with several of his head-men in Jumbotown, in the palaver-house, with a large concourse of people. After shaking hands with them, we laid down our presents, which consisted of one gun, some powder, tobacco, pipes, beads, &c. His majesty said in broken English, "me tanke you," and caused the articles to be removed, and placed under the care of a sentinel, so that his people might not get them before he had divided them equally, as is their custom. This division takes place, that all may "taste of the good things," and a contract is made: all who have partaken of the present, are pledged to fulfil on their part.

The king asked us what we wanted, although he could not have been ignorant of our wishes. We stated our object to be, "*to get land for the black people in America, to come and sit down upon [to occupy]. We told him that the people were very many, and required much territory; that a few white men only would come along, to assist and take care of them; that we should make a town where ships would come and trade with cloth, and guns, and beads, and knives, and tobacco, and pipes; and take in return, their ivory, and palm oil, and rice, and every other thing growing in the fields; that they would*

not then need to sell any more people, but might learn to cultivate the ground, and make other things to sell for whatever they wanted."

We at last succeeded in making a favourable impression on their minds; and convincing them that we had no unfriendly motive in visiting Bassa. The palaver was adjourned until the next day. It indeed requires much patience to deal with these children of the forest. We returned on board weary and faint: after partaking of some refreshment, and having implored the divine blessing of Him who has promised to give to his Son the heathen for his inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for his possession, retired to rest.

Tuesday, April 10th.—This day is expected to be a day of importance, as the palaver will be much larger, and a certain condition will be discussed, which they have urged from the beginning; therefore, we look earnestly for Divine assistance. A small present will be necessary as there will be more head-men than at any former palaver. At 10 o'clock we were convened. The present was placed before the king, and the usual ceremonies were performed. The king rose up and spoke to the case in the Bassa language, with great energy; his naked arm presented to view from within his robes, which were made of the country manufactured cloth, something in the form of clerical robes. After him, a Krooman by the name of Brown, rose and spoke with much spirit; his speech was interpreted by Tamba; the substance of it was, that we were emissaries from some slave-ship in the neighbourhood, and that we were not friends to them; on which the king and his counsel withdrew to the shade of a large silk cotton tree, in conclave, for the space of twenty or thirty minutes. They then returned and proceeded in discussing the condition, strenuously urged from the beginning by the king, as the basis on which alone he could accede to our wishes in relation to the lands. We had stated, that we came not with any hostile intentions, and that the character of the settlement was to be unwarlike and agricultural. They demanded of us a positive stipulation, to make a contract, that the settlers and agents should act in consistency with this character, and in no way assist the

armed ships sent to the coast to suppress the slave-trade, by communicating to them any information that might prove injurious to the Bassa people. We represented to them the advantages which would attend their relinquishing the trade altogether; stating that in a very short time it must cease, as so many ships of war would be sent to the coast, as to catch every slave vessel, and put an end to the exportation of the people; still they insisted on the condition; and at the breaking up of the palaver, told us we should have the lands, provided we agreed to insert the condition in the contract. They directed us to explore the country, and (as the king said, "lookem straight," laying down his palaver brush in a straight position,) fix upon the tract best adapted to our purpose, at the same time indicating the quarter where those lands lay, which they could best afford to spare. We returned on board the schooner somewhat encouraged, but still we felt dissatisfied with the condition upon which they insisted; however, considering that it could have no practical operation, inasmuch as if, while in our infant state, we were to show a disposition to use any other means than persuasion in urging them to abandon the traffic in slaves, we should incur their displeasure, and cause the destruction of the whole of our expectations of future success, we were tolerably content.

Wednesday, April 11th.—This day went on shore, when it began to rain. There has been a little rain every day for six or seven days past. It appears that the rains are setting in. The king sent a servant to us, with a message, informing us that he would be ready to receive us after the rains had ceased. We arrived at the king's town. We had a short palaver, after ascertaining that we could not obtain land upon any better terms. It is, however, probable, that at no distant period the natives may be induced to abandon the slave trade altogether, without any coercive measures being used, as they will see other sources of trade present themselves to view.

The king directed some of his head-men to accompany us, to look at the country. We walked in various directions, and returned to the schooner, having previously explored the St. John's river as far as the rapids,

and viewed the country in various directions. We fully determined upon the territory which would be suitable for our purpose. We are more and more pleased with the appearance of the country and its inhabitants. The king took one of his boys by the hand, who was about 13 or 14 years of age, and gave him to us to learn *Book*. We took him on board, and put a pair of domestic pantaloons upon him, which pleased him very much.

Thursday, April 12th.—This morning the king sent two of his head-men on board to go with us and fix upon a place to build our town. We sent back a message that we had fixed upon the place, and that we were ready to meet him in palaver, at any time he should appoint, at Jumbotown. He did not send us his answer until evening, when two of his head-men arrived with a present from his sable majesty, which consisted of a fine fat goat. His answer was that he would meet us at 8 o'clock the next morning at Jumbotown, in grand palaver. We are very anxious to know the final result.

Friday, April 13th.—We met in palaver; there were more head-men and princes, as well as people, than at any time previous. Our present, of course, was much more valuable than before. We thanked the king for his present, and he returned the same civility for our presents. These people being ignorant of extent of territory, or of distances by measurement, we directed our interpreters to tell them that we wanted a large tract of land, and they described it thus:—Beginning at a certain tree on the beach near Jumbotown, running due east by compass to the top of Saddle Mountain, or two or three days' walk, either of which would be a distance of from 40 to 60 miles; from thence northwardly to St. John's river, a distance of perhaps from 50 to 70 miles; from thence down the St. John's river to its mouth; from thence along the sand beach to the aforesaid tree near Jumbotown, inclusive: supposed to be 30 or 40 miles square of territory. To our having this tract, they readily agreed, and directed their names to be set to the instrument, the conditions before mentioned being included. They all took hold of the pen and made their marks; they then cried aloud, "Palaver set! Palaver set!"

The agent of the Colonization Society, engaged in behalf of said Society, to give certain stipulated articles annually, which will not cost more than 300 dollars. Pledges of mutual friendship were interchanged, whereby each party agreed to cultivate peace and harmony, and not to make war or trouble each other.

Thus we at last succeeded in convincing them that we were their friends. This, we were assured, we could not have done, had it not been for the presence of *Davis*, and the entire absence of any display of military or naval force. We regard it as a most favourable providence that the Alligator did not bring or accompany us to the Bassa, and that no naval officer was present at the negotiations.

The king was much pleased at seeing his son with trowsers on; the people said, "He gentleman all one white man:" the king proposed to give us an elder son in lieu of the other, as he said if the younger went away, his "Mama make palaver on me." We accepted his proposition, took the elder on board, put a suit of clothes on him, and gave him the name of Bushrod Washington. His father was very much delighted to see him clothed. The king, princes, head-men, and people, went with us to the tree on the beach near Jumbotown, one of the aforesaid boundaries, and a boy climbed up it, and cut off some of its branches, leaving one branch, which ascended considerably higher than the rest: to this he tied about six yards of an American pendant, which the people consider a white man's gregre or fetish, and according to their prejudice, regard as sacred. Near this spot it was thought proper to make our settlement. The king's son will go with us to Sierra Leone, where he will be put to school and taught to speak English. The king and people are all anxious that we should return immediately, even before the rains fully set in; but we do not give them any encouragement of our speedy return.

These people are very kind, but are in a dreadful state of heathenish darkness; they worship the "Dibbly man" and dedicate daily a part of their food to his satanic majesty. They profess to believe that there is a good and merciful Deity, who can and will do them good, and

not evil: but that the devil is all powerful, and that it is necessary to appease his wrath. Every town has its peculiar devil.

The man who acts the part of devil is dressed up. A garment of dried grass or rushes covers him, and reaches to the ground; his arms and feet are concealed; a white country-cloth covers his shoulders; round his head, and tied under his chin, are two or three cotton handkerchiefs; the face is frightful; the mouth and nose are black; two large teeth project far beyond the lips; a row of coarse shells is bound round above the eyes; on the head is a red cap, which reaches four or five feet in height, and is surmounted with a plume of feathers.

Sometimes this figure would move about in a stately style; and at others it would turn into all sorts of postures, and strike the plume of feathers on the ground, uttering a noise like that occasioned by blowing through a pipe, the mouth of which is immersed in water.

Every inducement was offered to the king to obtain possession of the habiliments of this terrific figure, that we might carry them out of the country; but could not prevail. The king said that the devil belonged to the people, and that they would kill him if he let it go. We trust that the light of the gospel will, ere long, expose to shame these delusions of cunning and superstition.

The people, like all other natives, are in a state of nudity, except that they wear about one and a half yards of narrow cloth about their loins; the men often wear hats, while the children are not burdened with any kind of clothes, but frequently, like the adults, wear many beads. Leopard's teeth are thought to be very valuable ornaments.

The king, when in general palaver, was clad in his robes, which covered his whole body; he had on, also, an elegant cap; at other times he wore a drab-coloured broad-cloth great coat, with a number of capes. His head-men were partially clad, some with blue cloth roundabouts, with military or naval buttons. They wore no shirts. Many of them had belts of beads, which contained one or more pounds each.

There are many Kroomen in the towns along the

coast. They are employed as agents or factors for the authorities of the country, who monopolize all the trade. These agents have each a number of certificates from masters of vessels who have employed them. They wished us to give them books, likewise, but we had no occasion to employ them as factors. Bottle Beer required us to pay for the water with which our vessel had been furnished. With this demand, we did not comply, as we had not come "for trade." We informed the king of the demand, and he revoked it. The people all live in villages or clusters of cottages, in each of which is a head-man, who has a plurality of wives. If a native have but one wife, he is indeed very poor. The head-man is a slaveholder, he owns all the people in his town. The inhabitants of each town cultivate in common. The men seldom do any labour, except fish and hunt. The females and small boys cultivate the land. The men trade and direct those who are under them. I saw a fine looking female with iron fetters on her feet, which fetters, no doubt, were brought from a slave vessel, as we observed one under French colours, lying in the harbour at the same time. I made inquiry concerning the cause of her confinement, and was told that she was taken in adultery. This crime is punished with death, red water, or slavery, and most usually the latter. These people are indeed in gross darkness, depending upon their gregres and devil worship. A town is not complete which has not a Palaver House, and Devil House, where they daily offer sacrifice.

The Bassa country is situated between five and six degrees north latitude, and between ten and eleven west longitude, in the centre of the Grain Coast, which is about an equal distance from Sierra Leone and Cape Coast, where the English have commenced a settlement.

At evening we took an affectionate leave of the king and some of the head-men; the old king appeared to be much affected, and said, "You have my son, you take him Sierra Leone learn book, when rain done you come Grand Bassa, then King Jack Ben give you plenty boys learn book." The people are all apparently very anxious to have us return; they seem to have great confidence in us.

Grand Bassa, Saturday morning, April 14th.—Many natives were on board with fruit, rice, fowls, eggs, and vegetables to sell, which we bought, chiefly with tobacco.

At twelve o'clock we set sail on our return to Sierra Leone. We make slow headway; the wind is light. At six o'clock we are not more than three or four leagues from Bassa.

We are turning our attention to the state of our settlers at Sherbro and those at Sierra Leone. We think of visiting Sherbro as we return. We are very anxious to hear from our friends.

We feel grateful to God for his mercy, in preserving us, and enabling us to accomplish our wishes in some degree. Still, however, we have continual need of Divine assistance. Our vessel leaks and requires much attention; but our trust is in God alone, who has hitherto mercifully preserved us, so that "the sun hath not smitten us by day, neither the moon by night." The pestilence which walketh in darkness hath not come near us; therefore, we are under renewed obligations to praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works in the great deep.

Sunday morning, April 15th.—At sea with a fair wind; we have just discovered Cape Mesurado. Had worship this morning as usual, and found it good for us to call upon the name of the Lord, to read his most holy word, to meditate upon his blessed promises, to praise him for past mercies and implore the continuance of his most gracious aid.

Prince Bushrod is a little sea-sick; he appears to be much pleased with his dress, and has been persuaded to take off his gregres, Davis having told him if he wore clothes, he must not wear gregres. We purpose to let him go to Regent's town, and stay with Davis and attend school, under the superintendence of the Rev. Mr. Johnson, where he will have the benefit of associating with some of his own countrymen, who are pious and useful people.

Monday, April 16th.—Last night there was a tremendous tornado, with much rain; at the appearance of a tornado it is necessary to take in all sail immediately, as the wind generally blows powerfully.

Our Kroomen are easily intimidated in bad weather; they have on their gregres, those which they think contain the most virtue and are best calculated to preserve them from the greatest danger. I endeavoured to persuade them that their gregres were useless, and advised them to throw them into the sea, but my entreaties were in vain; one had his gregre tied with a twine around his head above his ears; I took hold of the string and broke it. On examining it, I found it was composed of a ball of clay, tied up in a piece of white muslin, with a small feather in the end; he was angry and sorry for his loss. One gave me his gregre, that I might view its contents; they consisted of nothing more than a kind of black sand tied up in a piece of rag. I threw the gregre into the sea, which grieved him very much.

The Kroomen were all alarmed at their loss; and expressed fears that some accident would happen to us. They appear to be very affectionate to each other. When we are visited on board by other Kroomen, they beg food for them, or divide their own portion among the visitors. They prefer rice, which they boil and use with palm oil. They sit down around a large dish of rice, and make use of their hands instead of spoons.

Tuesday morning, April 17th.—We were off the Galinas with a light wind, proceeding on towards the Shebar, which is the entrance into Sherbro Sound, near the eastern part of Sherbro island. We wished to cross over the Shebar, which is difficult without a skilful pilot. A native who resides at Bohol within the bar, on discovering a vessel, generally goes out in his canoe to meet her. We hoped to be discovered by him, so that we might pass over in safety. Our object was to visit our people at Yonie, a native town on the island, opposite Bohol, which is on the main. At evening we heard the surf-roar as its waves rolled over the Shebar; it is heard several leagues; the wind was ahead, and we made slow progress. Our vessel appeared to leak more than she had done, and the inexperience of our navigators gave us great anxiety.

Wednesday, April 18th.—Still we were off the Shebar, but had made little progress during the night; at twelve o'clock there was a tornado; the wind blew powerfully

twenty or thirty minutes, and was accompanied with considerable rain.

Thursday morning, April 19th.—We were within sight of the Shebar, and had a delightful air after the rains. Laying off and on with our vessel, hoping a pilot would come off to our assistance; several guns were fired as signals for pilots, but none came; therefore, we had but two alternatives, one was to sail round the island, which as the wind is light requires from seven to ten days; the other was to send our boat over the Shebar for a pilot. As our sailors were unwilling to go in the boat, I prevailed upon them by proposing to accompany them. After approaching as near the Shebar as was thought prudent, the vessel was brought to anchor at four o'clock, P. M. The boat was manned with the mate of the vessel and three natives, one a sailor, the others Kroomen. The mate, although a tolerably good boatman, apprehended more danger than I did, for I had not much experience in crossing such bars. At length we started in the boat, and approached near the bar. It appeared dangerous indeed. The mate being at the rudder, gave directions to the oarsmen to obey him promptly; he told them he should watch the motion of the waves, and that, when he ordered them to pull at the oars, they must pull for their lives. We soon found our boat first soaring over the turbulent waves, then plunging into the deep, while the waves were rolling in quick succession after us, each appearing as if it would bury us in the ocean. One wave poured about sixty gallons of water into the boat, which caused me active employment in lading out the water; the boat having been brought quartering to the waves, it required quick exertion by the men at the oars, who were somewhat frightened, but were enabled to bring the boat to its proper position before the succeeding wave came, which wafted us over the greatest danger; by that time I had nearly laded out the water. Indeed, it was mercy to us that we were not swallowed up. Not unto us! not unto us! but unto thy name, O God, be all the glory, both now and ever!

We soon after arrived at Bohol, where we obtained a pilot. The boatmen remained until the tide favoured

us the next morning. Lewis Tucker is head-man at Bohol; he has many people, and it is feared that he and his brothers have not wholly abolished the slave-trade, though they do not carry it on as publicly as at former times.

I obtained a passage to Yonie, in one of Tucker's canoes that evening, where I arrived at nine o'clock, and found the American free people of colour who had survived of the first expedition. I went to the house where Nathaniel Brander resides; he had the people and goods in charge. I was very much fatigued, from having been wet in the boat, and afterwards exposed to the damps of the evening. I soon learnt the condition of the people, and found they were in good health; they had previously received some small supplies from Mr. Winn, at Sierra Leone. After partaking of some refreshment, which Brander caused to be prepared, I read a chapter in the Bible, and returned thanks to Almighty God for the great mercy and deliverance of the past day.

“When waves on waves, to heav’n uprear’d,
 Defy’d the pilot’s art,
 When terror in each face appear’d,
 And sorrow in each heart,
 To thee I rais’d my humble pray’r,
 To snatch me from the grave!
 I found thine ear not slow to hear,
 Nor short thine arm to save!”

I consider my preservation that day as one of the most extraordinary manifestations of Divine mercy to me during my life.

Yonie, Friday morning, 20th April.—I arose somewhat indisposed from the fatigues and extreme exposure of the preceding evening. I visited Prince Cong Kouber; he is a fine healthy man, well formed, handsome featured, and his very countenance indicating shrewdness. He speaks English so as to be understood tolerably well; is a man of but few words, with much observation, and is indeed possessed of more power than the king, although the latter is acknowledged by his subjects: Kouber is prime minister and manages as he pleases. The kings on the Main are not well pleased with King Sherbro, who resides at Yonie; so that that

perhaps was one cause which prevented Mr. Coker from negotiating with them for lands. But the principal reason was, Kizzel having caused the agents and people to make a temporary stay at his place. The authorities of the whole country consider him a "stranger," (an intruder,) and, as he was employed in assisting Mr. Coker in endeavouring to negotiate for lands, they thought that he would monopolize the presents: moreover, he had already the trade with our people. Even while they were sick, and were in want of fresh provisions, Kizzel established himself as a huckster, and bought cheap and sold dear: and Mr. Coker being at the palaver, they were compelled to submit to the imposition. Having seen all the American people who are at Yonie, and found that notwithstanding sickness and death had occurred, and other difficulties as might have been expected from the decease of their agents, and their having been left under the authority of a man of colour, they being unwilling to be governed by one of their own race, yet they were much pleased with the country, and with the intelligence that lands had been negotiated for, and the expectation that they should soon be in possession of a suitable portion which they could call their own.

At 4 o'clock, P. M. our schooner arrived and anchored in the bay of Yonie. We had more trouble with our captain, who unmercifully beat some of the sailors and the Kroomen, which had been extremely unpleasant to brother Andrus, and our native missionaries, who were heralds of mercy and peace.

We feared that we should have trouble with the king and natives at Sherbro; that when our people should remove from there, they would extort very much for cottage rents, notwithstanding they have received large presents, and have given nothing in return: it having been known to them that Kizzel had charged sixty dollars per month for one single hut, while it was occupied by our people.

Saturday morning, 21st April.—We left some small supplies which we could spare from the schooner, as the people would soon be in need, unless they were removed. We then made the necessary preparations for our de-

parture; we bought a sheep of Kouber, for which we gave eight pounds of leaf tobacco.

Despatch of business appears to be quite out of practice; it was near night before we could prevail on our captain to weigh anchor and get the vessel under way. At 7 o'clock, P.M. we arrived at York island, where Martin, after anchoring the schooner, went on shore to visit his wife, who is a native. We obtained from the natives, who came on board, four or five gallons of honey, which cost about as many pounds of leaf tobacco; likewise, several mats and some cocoanuts, fowls, vegetables, &c.

Sunday morning, 22d April.—We concluded that it was a duty for us to proceed on, as the wind and tide were in our favour, and as moreover, we had been informed that the winds were very variable in Sheron Bay, and that frequently vessels were detained there one or more weeks on that account.

At 4 o'clock, P.M. we arrived at Campelar (Kizzell's Place). I probably did not go on shore without possessing some prejudice against Kizzell. But, indeed, I was very much surprised at his malignant conduct. After we had made ourselves known to him, he appeared somewhat disconcerted at seeing the successors of our deceased friends. He, doubtless, felt some compunctions on account of his baseness. Our intention was to tarry but a short time on shore. We asked him to show us the ground where our predecessors and people were buried, and we expressed a wish to see his "meridian," [spring] as he sometimes denominates it. At length we walked to his spring, and in the very appearance of the water saw an indication of its impurity; it appeared to be in a state of fermentation, and, I must confess, I did not wish to taste it.

After we returned, we passed by his church, as he denominated it. It was built in the native style, and would contain about one hundred people. There was a kind of desk on which lay a Bible and hymn book. But if the life and conduct of the speaker were as humble as the appearance of the house, they would better correspond. May the Lord give him grace to repent; and may he be forgiven.

We also visited the graves of our friends, and found them so situated that the spring tides overflow them. Loved Kizzell was under the necessity of building a mud wall along the beach, to prevent the water from flowing quite into his cottages. The island is low, bad land, literally a mangrove swamp, unfit for cultivating with any degree of comfort or profit. The exhalations from its soils renders the atmosphere very unpleasant. This made our return on board the vessel desirable. It is indeed unpleasant to dwell upon Kizzell's conduct, though it may be deemed necessary to make some exposure of its baseness. While viewing those solitary shades of our friends, I said to Kizzell, I conclude you have no objections to those corpses remaining here, as a removal would be inexpedient, and the ground is of no value? His reply was, that the Rev. Samuel Bacon agreed, at the burial of Dr. Samuel A. Crozer, and Captain Townsend, that he would cause them to be removed after lands should be obtained, and the settlers located in them; and he seemed to expect a fulfilment of that agreement. I then put the question thus: Do you expect an equivalent if those bodies should remain? He seemed to endeavour to evade a direct answer, and said that they ought to be removed. I then said to him, Are you willing that they should remain here, if you have pay for the ground? His answer was in the affirmative. He had at the same time already sent an account to Sierra Leone, to Mr. Winn, principal agent, amounting to almost 800 dollars; and yet his avaricious appetite was not satisfied. We left Kizzell, with our prejudices increased rather than lessened.

Monday morning, April 23d.—At six o'clock, we weighed anchor, but we had not proceeded far, before a canoe which Tamba had purchased, and which was tied slightly to the vessel with a rope, parted, the wind blowing fiercely, and we sailing very fast. This caused us to anchor, having previously manned our boat and sent for the canoe. Martin was told that the canoe was unsafe in her present situation. But we had reason to think that he was willing to protract the voyage on account of his being profitably employed. He knew if the wind continued, and we proceeded on without obstacle,

we would soon arrive so far down the bay as to have the benefit of the sea breeze, which prevails after ten o'clock, A. M. and thus reach Sierra Leone in a short time.

At 8 o'clock, P. M. we anchored near the Plantain islands. We were very anxious to hear from Sierra Leone. Brother Andrus had concluded to return to America, and we were in hopes that the Nautilus had not left Sierra Leone, but that he might avail himself of the opportunity of returning by her. If disappointed in this resolution, he had resolved to go by the way of England, which must necessarily increase both the time and expense.

He was induced to yield to this determination by the probability that the American blacks would not be removed to the Bassa country, until after the rainy season; and that, therefore, the assistance of all the agents would not be necessary to administer to their wants. Having discovered the want of missionaries in Africa, and the ardent desire of the natives to receive them, he had formed the resolution to resign his appointment as agent to the Colonization Society, and return to these shores in the capacity of a missionary, and here spend the remainder of his days in his Master's service, as had been his wish before leaving America.

Tuesday, April 24th.—Having as usual come to anchor last night, we got under sail this morning, at six o'clock. At half past eight o'clock, A. M. brother Andrus and Tamba, left the schooner, and went in our boat, in company with two Kroomen in a canoe, which Tamba had bought for the purpose of leaving us. His object was to go and labour as a missionary in the Sherbro country. He had determined to do so before our arrival at Sierra Leone; but Mr. Johnson, learning that we were in want of interpreters to explore the coast, proposed, that he should accompany us on our excursion, and that he should stop at Sherbro on our return. The wind was very light, and we made slow progress, and soon came to anchor. At two o'clock brother Andrus met us, after our vessel had got under way.

He was much pleased with his visit to the Plantains, and said the islands were delightfully situated and very

fertile. He was agreeably entertained by the owner of them, George Caulker, who was a native African, educated in England. He found him employed in writing, his table being well furnished with papers. He learnt that he had translated the liturgy of the Church of England into the Bullum *language*, and was engaged in translating the Bible, and had made considerable progress in the book of Genesis. O! how cheering is the thought that the time is fast approaching, and near at hand, when the Bullum people will read and hear in their own language, of the wonderful works of God; and this too, through the instrumentality of one of their own kindred and tribe, who hath, perhaps, been concerned in that *bane* of Africa, the slave trade; but who, after having acquired an English education, and received the influences of the Holy Spirit in his heart, has been induced to commence the laudable work of translating the pages of the Book of Life.

Mr. Andrus found Caulker to be a man of talents; and obtained from him much useful information. Caulker professed an attachment to the Protestant Episcopal Church of England, and is thought to be a pious man. Mr. Andrus informed him of the subject of our mission, and that we had negotiated for lands in the Bassa country. Caulker stated that he had travelled into the interior of that country, and that he deemed it the most eligible situation for our settlement of any on the coast, being as it was situated in the centre of the Grain Coast. He said that its inhabitants were unwarlike, and less hostile than any of the neighbouring tribes—that the coast was accessible to small vessels, and that large ships might lie at anchor within two or three miles distance; and moreover, that its soil was equal, if not superior, to any other on the western coast, and its herds far preferable. Caulker exhibited some neat cattle and swine as a specimen, they having been brought from the Bassa country. Mr. A. said the swine were equal to those in America in general, and the neat cattle superior to any he had ever seen in Africa.

Caulker's house was furnished in English style; his dress accorded with it, and he had an English school on his island.

fore he left the Plantain island, brother Andrus in-
d of Caulker whether the lime trees were growing
on that island, which the Rev. John Newton planted,
while a slave in Africa. Mr. Caulker said they were
still growing, and showed them to Mr. Andrus. Mr. A.
plucked some branches, and brought them to Sierra
Leone.

Caulker, like all others who have had any intercourse
with Kizzell, consider him an unprincipled man, and an
intruder in the country, and that our people could not
have stopped at a more unsuitable spot than Campelar.
Tamba commenced his missionary tour among the Sher-
bro (Bullum) people, with two Kroomen to paddle his
canoe.—Tamba and Davis are supported by the Church
Missionary Society in England, and they appear to be
useful men.

Wednesday morning, April 25th.—We were between
the Banana islands and Cape Shilling, and had a fair
view of each; Cape Shilling is the place where the late
Rev. Samuel Bacon died.

He left Campelar (Kizzell's Place) about the last of
April, 1820, in an open boat, for the purpose of going
to Sierra Leone, in order to procure medical aid. He
expected to fall in with an English vessel, but he was
not in time. Therefore, he directed his men to proceed
on in the boat; he arrived at Cape Shilling on the first
of May. Cape Shilling is an English settlement of re-
captured Africans. A captain Randle was the English
agent, residing there. He received the Rev. Mr. Bacon
into the mission-house, and hospitably administered to
his wants, as did also Mrs. Randle. They affectionately
acted the part of the good Samaritan, and rendered him
every assistance in their power—For which I gave them
my most hearty thanks; as I visited them at Freetown,
soon after our arrival.

Alas! the extreme anxiety of mind, of my dear bro-
ther, and his most arduous labours among the American
people of colour, at Kizzell's Place; being as he was
constantly employed with the sick and dying both day
and night, while sick himself, with the use of that bad
water, which it was said Kizzell did not use even in his
own family of native Africans, proved too much for him.

On the third day of May, 1820, he departed this life; and we have good reason to believe he is with Christ, which is far better. He was buried in a decent manner. Mr. and Mrs. Randle paid him the last acts of benevolence.

In him I lost an affectionate and dear brother, and a brother in Christ.

I did not go on shore at Cape Shilling; therefore, I could not visit the grave of dear Samuel. The wind was fair which wafted us along.

Thursday, April 26.—We had a head wind, and many difficulties to encounter. We caught, however, an abundance of fish. Our greatest difficulty was, as we came into the harbour of Sierra Leone. Captain Martin, (as if he had not caused us sufficient trouble) managing the vessel, to bring her into port, did not take in sail in time and let go the anchor, but let her run against the wharf, and it was with great difficulty that we got her off again, and brought her to an anchor.

Indeed our troubles have been neither few nor small; sometimes I have thought they were enough to exhaust the patience of a Job, or appal the faith of a Moses. But the Lord had hitherto blessed us.

Sierra Leone, Friday, April 27th.—We had learned that the Nautilus had sailed on her return to America, so that brother Andrus resolved to return by the way of England.

At 10 o'clock, we visited Foura Bay Farm, which is about two miles from Freetown. There we found Mr. Winn, conveniently located with the blacks who accompanied us from America, together with some of those from Sherbro. There is a large mansion-house and several out-houses, and tenements, sufficiently capacious for the accommodation of the people, and the storage of the goods, provisions, &c. which Mr. Winn negotiated for about two weeks after we sailed down the coast. We found our friends in tolerable health, though there had been some slight cases of illness, accompanied with fever, but they had mostly subsided: they had lands suitable for cultivation, and had made some progress.

After informing our friends of our obtaining lands, &c., Mr. Andrus and myself, went back to Freetown,

where we went on board the schooner, and I visited the Rev. Samuel Flood, chaplain of the English colony: he very politely furnished me with a horse, on which I rode to Regent's town, where my wife was sick of a fever; she had the attack on the evening previous, but it was not very violent.

Mrs. Bacon was very politely and hospitably treated at good Mr. Johnson's: she, morning and evening, enjoyed in the church, the sight of the children of Ethiopia, stretching out their hands unto God.

Mr. Johnson was delighted to hear that we had made a contract for lands in the Bassa country: he is very much interested in the accomplishment of our several designs for the improvement of the African race. He is a faithful minister of Christ, and labours to save the souls of his fellow men.

Regent's town, Saturday morning, April 28th.—My wife appears to be worse; she had a physician, who daily attends Miss Johnson, who is also sick. At six o'clock, P. M. the people are assembled in church, where there is reading, praising and praying: it is indeed gratifying to see the improvements which are made here; the very hills resound with the praises of God, and of the Lamb. O that the Lord would cause his word to extend from the rivers to the ends of the earth!

Regent's town, Sunday morning, 29th April.—Mrs. Bacon is very ill: she is attended by Dr. Macauley Wilson, a native of the Bullum tribe; he was educated in England, is an assistant surgeon in this colony; a decent, well-behaved man; and is considered skilful in his profession. This morning the church was filled at six o'clock, as is usual, and a lesson was read, together with singing and prayers.

At ten o'clock the people were all in motion, coming to the church from all parts of the town. O! these are the fruits of the labours of a faithful missionary, accompanied by the blessings of that God who has said, "in the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thy hand; for thou knowest not which shall prosper, this or that."

At 3 o'clock, the people are again flocking together to hear the word of life. Their very countenances show

that they are anxious to learn of HIM who is meek and lowly of heart. "These are times which kings and prophets desired to see," but did not see them; and as I walk around the house in the piazza, I can see all parts of the settlement, and there is scarcely an individual to be seen—all are at church. Indeed "these people live a life of prayer and praise." At 6 o'clock this evening the goodly shepherd again brake the bread of life to his flock, whose appetites seem to crave more of that, which, if a man eat thereof, he shall live forever. Thus the labours of the Rev. Mr. Johnson are perpetuated; he preaches twice or thrice every Sabbath, and has prayers in church morning and evening, besides prayer meetings and lectures.

Monday morning, April 30th.—Mrs. Bacon was worse last night than at any time previous. I remain with her while the family are at prayers, but it is deemed necessary that we should separate for a short time. As we know every thing which could tend to meliorate her sufferings would be undoubtedly done; and as there was business to transact at Foura Bay, discharging the schooner's crew, and consulting with the agents upon the propriety of removing the people from Sherbro, or sending them some necessaries of life. After imploring God's blessing on us, I left Regent's town, with an expectation of visiting it again on the Wednesday evening following.

I arrived at Foura Bay at 10 o'clock, A. M. and found some slight illness among the people of colour, but nothing alarming, except the case of one woman, who was in a decline before she left America. I discharged the crew from the schooner in the bay, and placed some of our men on board to take care of her.

Tuesday morning, May 1st.—A messenger arrived with a note from Mr. Johnson, which informed me that Mrs. Bacon had less fever than on the morning I left her; I immediately despatched the messenger. Having exerted myself overmuch, and suffered considerable anxiety of mind, and having moreover drank too freely of water, which is thought to be prejudicial to the health of white people in Africa; at 11 o'clock, A. M. I felt

somewhat indisposed; perspiration ceased; I was attacked with pain in the back part of the head, neck, and back. I immediately went on board the schooner, where brother Andrus and myself still had our lodgings; took some medicine and retired to my birth. I soon found a chillness to pervade the whole system. I even found it necessary to use flannel blankets. After about two hours, the chill was succeeded by fever, which continued until nine in the evening, when it intermitted, the medicine having had its desired effect. The stomach being in a state for the reception of tonics, and brother Andrus having a small treatise of practice, by Dr. Winterbottom, which directed bark to be given in as large quantities as the stomach would receive, brother Andrus followed that plan during the night, and attended to me very kindly.

Wednesday morning, 2d May.—No fever: continued to use the bark until 4 o'clock, P.M. Dr. Macauley Wilson arrived; after he had been informed of the course which had been pursued, highly approved of it; he then gave me two calomel pills, which had the desired effect, after which the bark was continued.

Thursday morning, 3d May, Foura Bay.—At four o'clock a chill came on again, succeeded by fever, which continued until three o'clock, P.M. After it had intermitted, brother Andrus again gave me the bark, two or three teaspoonfuls once an hour. I had become very much debilitated for so short an illness. A message came from Mr. Johnson, saying that Mrs. Bacon had not as much fever.

Monday morning, 7th May.—Being a little better, I went on shore for the purpose of remaining. Mrs. Bacon, who had heard of my illness, was brought as far as Gloucester, where she became too ill to proceed. These were trials of faith; but during my whole sickness, that peace was experienced which “passeth knowledge.”

During the following days, I received several notes from the Rev. Mr. During, at Gloucester, by one of his servants, which informed me of the low state of Mrs. Bacon's health, and kindly stated that every means

should be exerted to make her as comfortable as the circumstances of her case would admit; however, her anxiety was so great, that it was thought by her physician, that a removal to Foura Bay would probably be beneficial. Mr. Johnson, therefore, again sent six or eight of his captured people with a palanquin, accompanied by Dr. Wilson, who caused her to be removed, although she was unable to sit up. At length the company arrived.

Sunday morning, May 13th.—About two o'clock, two of the officers of the United States schooner Alligator arrived at Foura Bay, they having anchored off the harbour of Freetown the preceding evening. We were much rejoiced to see them so ardently engaged in the laudable work of annoying the detestable slave traders.

On Sundays there are meetings in the settlement, at which the coloured preachers generally officiate, and they often meet for prayers in the evenings during the week.

Monday, 14th May.—We had the pleasure of seeing lieutenant commandant Stockton, of the Alligator, by whose politeness we received a number of communications from the United States.

Tuesday morning, 15th May.—The Alligator sailed on a cruise to the south-eastward in search of slave vessels. Mrs. Bacon still remains very ill.

Mr. Winn and myself deemed it expedient to repair the schooner Augusta, for the purpose of removing the people from Yonie, to the Bassa country, as soon as the rainy season subsides. It was determined that I should cause the schooner to be examined.

Wednesday 16th May.—Brother Andrus is preparing to leave us, on his return to the United States, by the way of England; very little can be done during the rains, except attending to the wants of the people.

Thursday morning, 17th May.—This day I walked to Freetown, a distance of about two miles, for the purpose of procuring a ship-carpenter, to examine the schooner and ascertain her condition, and succeeded in obtaining one: I visited Mr. Justice Craig, who very politely proposed that I should ride back, and lent me his

horse for that purpose. This day's exertion nearly proved fatal. On my return, I also found Mrs. Bacon very ill, so that our hopes of speedy recovery were blasted, and the prospects of future usefulness clouded.

Friday, 18th May.—From this date not having kept a regular diary, I shall only mention occurrences of the most importance. The ship-carpenter examined the vessel and reported her worthy of repairs; he was, therefore, employed to repair her as speedily as possible; but despatch of business being uncommon, we were taught to expect that probably six or eight weeks would be required to fit her for use.

June 1st.—For the past two weeks, Mrs. Bacon and myself have been unable to attend to very little business of any kind. Mr. Winn has been ill a few days. Mr. Andrus has engaged his passage for England, and expects to sail in about ten days; he is much pleased with the prospects of being useful in Africa, and appears to be extremely well calculated for a missionary as well as an agent, the climate agreeing with his constitution; his health, hitherto, has been better than that of any of the agents.

June 11th, Monday.—Mrs. Bacon and myself are rather worse, more debilitated, particularly myself. We are so ill that brother Andrus has suggested to us the propriety of his remaining in my stead, and Mrs. Bacon and myself going to the United States, it being supposed a sea voyage would prove beneficial to our healths. Having been at Freetown for the purpose of making some arrangements concerning his passage to England, and learnt that a schooner, which was a prize vessel, but had been purchased by the honourable K. Macauley, is about to be sent to Barbadoes for sale, and in this schooner he has been offered a passage free of expense. On his first making the offer, I told him I did not feel disposed to go, as I had not thought of returning; but, after further reflection, I consulted my physician, who advised our taking the voyage. I consulted also Mr. Winn on the subject, and finally I concluded to embrace the opportunity, provided Mrs. Bacon and myself could obtain a passage. Mr. Andrus went again to Free-

town, and obtained a passage for us in the same schooner, being politely and gratuitously offered by the honourable K. Macauley. Thus Mr. Andrus very kindly consented to remain and assist Mr. Winn, if he desired it, in my stead; for which kindness, as well as for making the necessary preparations for the outfit, I feel much indebted to him.

Wednesday, 13th June.—Our baggage was removed to the boat, and we were by the assistance of our friends supported to the boat. We arrived at the schooner about six o'clock, P. M. very much exhausted; we rested but indifferently during the night; the next morning brought with it troubles long to be remembered, but I hope never to forget the goodness of God in sustaining us by his grace: at about 9 o'clock the heat became oppressive; Mrs. Bacon was taken extremely ill, and had she not obtained immediate aid would probably have survived but a short time. But the timely assistance of Dr. Riche, an English surgeon, by the blessing of God, rendered her relief; at the same time I became worse myself. Thus situated, neither of us able to help the other, just embarking on a voyage of five thousand miles, a voyage too which we had recently found very irksome, when we were enjoying the best of health, it was by no means pleasant.—When we came on board, the time of our departure was not fixed; but as there was every day more or less rain, our healths required that we should avail ourselves of the first opportunity to get on board, that we might be in readiness to sail at any moment, when the vessel should be prepared. During the time of our laying in the harbour, we were both more ill than at any time previous. Brother Andrus* visited us

* The Rev. Joseph R. Andrus departed this life on the 28th July, 1821, after a short illness, at Sierra Leone, on the coast of Africa. By the death of this pious and worthy man, the church and the cause of humanity have sustained an additional loss. "When the glories of the mightiest and proudest conqueror that ever dazzled the world with the splendour of his exploits, shall have faded away, and have been rolled in that oblivious tide which sweeps away all that man calls good and great, the names of Andrus, and Bacon, and Mills, shall shine bright in the philanthropic page.

occasionally, which rendered our situation more agreeable; still, however, we were often under the necessity of calling on the captain, and S. Easton, Esq. the supercargo. When they were on board they were very obliging to us.

At length we took leave of our friends on Saturday, the 16th of June, and sailed out of the harbour of Sierra Leone with the morning tide, but did not proceed far before evening. In the evening I was much worse; indeed it was a time long to be remembered: I had no expectations of surviving; accordingly I gave directions to my wife, and commended her, together with the cause in which we were engaged, to Him who has promised to be a father to the fatherless, and the widow's God. Death appeared fast approaching, and I must say that grim messenger had lost its terrors, and I could then exclaim, "O grave, where is thy victory!" The exercises of my mind, under these circumstances, I am unable to describe. The happiness of which I then enjoyed a foretaste, was unspeakable; not that I had merited any thing of myself, neither was I worthy of the comfort with which I was favoured; Christ was all in all.

Sunday morning, 17th June.—I awoke, and was astonished to find myself in this troublesome world. I was exercised with dreadful pains, which pervaded my whole system. For a considerable time I was unable to speak. Discovering our family Bible lying near, I made signs for it to be given to me, which it was. I soon spoke; I had no distinct recollections of the exercises of my mind

The sons of Africa shall tell to their latest descendants, how these men of God left father and mother, and brother and sister, and all the sweet endearments of friendship and of home, to cross the wide ocean, and dwell beneath the burning sky, and the blasting heats of her inhospitable wilds, and counted not their own lives dear unto them, that they might preach the unsearchable riches of Christ. Their infants shall be taught to lip the names of these benefactors of their race, to lift their hearts in gratitude to Him who inclined these servants of the Most High to go forth in order to prepare in their desert a highway to the Lord."

Since the death of the above, we have to record the melancholy intelligence of the deaths of Mr. and Mrs. Wynn, who died at the same place in the month of August, 1821.

during the night, but I imagined that I had arisen from the bed of death. I then thought I esteemed the Bible much more highly than I had ever before; I considered it holy indeed, and that almost a touch would pollute it. Probably the change of air, and the motion of the vessel raised the fever to form a crisis, which the constitution, by Divine assistance, was enabled to endure.

After this, a gradual recovery took place. Still we found difficulties which were unpleasant. The captain and mate were Englishmen, and several of the crew; but several others were Spaniards, besides whom there were some negroes. To these the Spaniards took a dislike, from the time of embarkation: several rencounters took place; the Spaniards not unfrequently threatened the lives of the negroes; but Mr. Easton (the supercargo), and the captain, dissuaded them from executing their horrid threats. We were, however, fearful that murder would be committed, as the Spaniards were of that class of perpetrators taken from the slave-ships, and were permitted to leave, or rather were banished from, the English colony.—There was great danger of their raising a mutiny, so that the captain, supercargo and mate, were always on the watch, having their arms near at hand, even when they retired to rest. Those fears rendered our passage not as agreeable as it otherwise would have been: the officers were very obliging at all times. At length we arrived at the island of Barbadoes, the windward island of the West Indies, on the 10th of July, with our healths somewhat improved. This island is situated pleasantly, under a well regulated government, established by the British. Mrs. Bacon and myself were just able to walk from the wharf to the boarding-house, about forty or fifty yards distance. There we remained four days, after which we took passage in an English vessel for Martinique, where we arrived in about twenty-four hours. We remained in Martinique until the 29th of July. This island we found to be very sickly, and we were more debilitated when we left it, than we were when we arrived. We took passage from thence in an American schooner, commanded by J. Pennington, of Great Egg-harbour, and for about eight days we had a

delightful passage; after that we were almost becalmed, and at length a storm came on, the wind N. E. which carried us into the Gulf stream; we arrived within a short distance of Cape Lookout, then tacked ship and lay to under a short-reefed foresail about three days, the greater part of the time in the gulf, which caused me to be very sea-sick. At length the storm abated, and on Monday, the 13th August, we had a brisk wind, which wafted us into Hampton Roads, and on Tuesday we arrived at Norfolk, in a convalescent state of health.

Notwithstanding our troubles have been neither few nor small, yet more abundantly has been the grace of God afforded us; therefore we give Him all the glory, both now and for ever.

APPENDIX.

Since the author returned from Africa, the colony has been visited by Dr. E. Ayres, the society's agent, who has laid before the public the result of his observations, from which the following extract is taken.

“When I arrived in Africa, I found the colonists occupying a plantation, within two miles of Freetown, in the British settlement. It consisted of 500 acres, regularly laid out into sections, formed by walks of from fifteen to twenty feet in width, bordered with lime, lemon, and orange trees, interspersed with pine-apples, bananas, and plantains, and with the beautiful tamarind and locust trees. The whole plantation, which had formerly been devoted to the cultivation of arrow root, had been neglected* by our people, and suffered that season to grow up to grass, which springs spontaneously like the crab grass of America, in the fall of the year. The grass which had sprung up in this plantation, was of a

* When our people arrived at this plantation, it was *too late* in the season to cultivate arrow root.—E. B.

species called Guinea grass, and it presented a beautiful verdant growth from three to twelve feet high over the whole 500 acres.

“Think what must have been my impressions, on viewing this beautiful prospect, with a mind previously stored with the common-place ideas of the barrenness of Africa! Those who are acquainted with the value of that grass for pasture, may form some idea of the capability of the country for grazing. The banana grows there in the greatest perfection, and is a very good substitute for bread. Humboldt says, that the same quantity of land which will raise wheat sufficient to make bread for two persons, will raise bananas sufficient to sustain fifty persons; and I believe his statement to be correct. This vegetable produces fruit in perfection all the year round; and the labour which is necessary for its production, after the root is put into the ground, is only to throw a little litter round its roots, and after the fruit is gathered, to cut down the succulent stalk, which is done at one stroke with a stalk knife. Each stalk will produce from 20 to 50 pounds of bread. Two hours labour is sufficient to produce bread enough for a family of eight or ten persons, for one year. Hogs are easily raised: they readily thrive when kept up, though if suffered to run at large, many of them get poisoned and die. Goats are produced in great plenty, and may be purchased of the natives, for from three to four pounds of tobacco, which is worth here, from twelve to sixteen cents. A cow may be purchased for from eighteen to thirty pounds of tobacco, the prime cost of which is, from seventy-two cents to one dollar and twenty cents. Rice may be purchased in any quantity, for twelve cents a 100 weight. It is now cultivated with an iron instrument, about two and a half inches wide, by three inches long, having a handle eighteen inches in length. How much less would be the cost of this article, if cultivated with a plough? It can be produced in the greatest abundance, and at as cheap a rate, as oats can in America. Sugar cane abounds in Africa, and labourers may be obtained to cultivate it, to any amount, from one man to ten millions of men, for twenty-four cents per month

each, and fed, only with one quart of rice per day, which now costs but one-fourth of a cent.*

"The coloured people of this country, can be sent to the land of their fathers, for less money than they can be sent to Hayti, or over the Mississippi. Those who accompanied me in the Oswego, a small vessel without a return cargo, cost forty-four dollars and thirty-five cents each. If a large ship were to be put in the trade, it would reduce the rate of passage one-third; and the last load of 105 persons were sent for 26 dollars per head. If the trade of the country would admit of a return cargo, which will soon be the case, this would reduce the passage to about 15 dollars per head. Fifteen pounds of ivory are here worth fifteen dollars; forty-five pounds of tobacco, would purchase that ivory in Africa; and the prime cost of the tobacco in this country, will be one dollar and eighty cents.

"New facilities are daily offering to the scheme of getting rid of our coloured people, much to their own advantage, as well as to ours. Hayti is already offering an asylum for many; and there can be little doubt, but other islands in the West Indies, if the present blind policy of the planters should be continued, will soon be in the possession of free blacks, and ready to receive emigrants from this country.—We may look forward to the time, when every vessel leaving our ports for those islands, will be laden with emigrants; while the colony in Africa, will have carried the arts of agriculture and civilization into the extensive and fertile region which surrounds them; and when the natives shall have seen that the labour of any men for one year, will be worth more than the sum they are now sold for on the coast; this will either prevent their being offered for sale, or raise the price of slaves, so as nearly to amount to an interdiction of the trade; while at the same time, it will lessen the demand for them here;—and thus, by degrees, the slave trade will finally cease.

"The Colonization Society solicit your attention to

* The articles of African produce mentioned by Dr. Ayres, are exceedingly plenty and cheap; but I think in some instances his statement of the prices is rather too low.—E. B.

this important subject. They have purchased a tract of land on the coast of Africa, and planted a colony—which is now thriving, and nearly able to support itself. There is land in that country, rich and fertile, sufficient to support one-fourth of the whole human family, and now lying uncultivated and untrodden by human foot. The Society intend presenting a memorial before the next Congress, praying that body to take up the business, and afford such means as shall be sufficient for carrying it into operation, and relieve our country from the class of free coloured people.

“It is their intention to send out an expedition this fall, with some additional emigrants, accompanied if possible, with agents, physicians, and missionaries; and for this, they crave your assistance and co-operation.”

“The Rev. R. R. Gurley, agent of the Colonization Society, arrived in this city from the coast of Africa, in October, 1824. He states that the colony at Cape Mesurado is in encouraging circumstances. The natives have been peaceful, and there is no danger to be apprehended from them. The colonists felt no more fear of being attacked by the Ashantees, of whose proceedings at Cape Coast we have heard so much, than we do. They are so far removed, and there are such various obstacles between, there is no prospect of it whatever.

“The colony has suffered for want of medical aid, but the deaths have been comparatively few, ten or twelve since March last, and those of ordinary diseases. Those who went out from Petersburg, under Waring, have erected houses, and are now conveniently accommodated. Considerable land, also, has been cleared, and the colonists, in general, have, on the whole, manifested great perseverance and industry. During the absence of Mr. Ashmun, who went to the Cape de Verd Islands for his health, they moved on harmoniously, under the direction of Lot Carey, Johnson, and Waring, three men of colour. Mr. Ashmun has since returned, and resumed his superintendence: his health being in a great measure

restored. Mr. A. is spoken of as deserving great credit for his unwearied efforts for the good of the colony.

"Land has been apportioned to the settlers, and a satisfactory system of government established. The country is represented by Mr. G., as well as by all others, as being remarkable for fertility. Coffee, sugar, cotton, rice, indigo, may be cultivated to great advantage. Mr. G. brought with him a specimen of indigo raised by one of the colonists; also, of a peculiar kind of cotton, of a consistency like silk. Of this cotton, one of the colonists from this city, whose name, on account of her character for great industry, ought to be mentioned, (M. Poulson,) spun and knit him a pair of socks which show of what the material is capable.

"Mr. G. brought with him various proofs of the ingenuity of the natives; as pieces of cloth, baskets, &c. made of grass, manufactured gold, cotton, war utensils, &c. Several of these were from the interior, and were made by the Foulahs.

"He visited Sierra Leone, and found that colony in safety and prosperity. The Ashantee war is entirely beyond the Sierra Leone region; also, there is no connexion between that and Cape Coast, except that both are governed by the British. On his way from Mesurado, Mr. G. spoke a vessel going to Cape Coast with supplies."